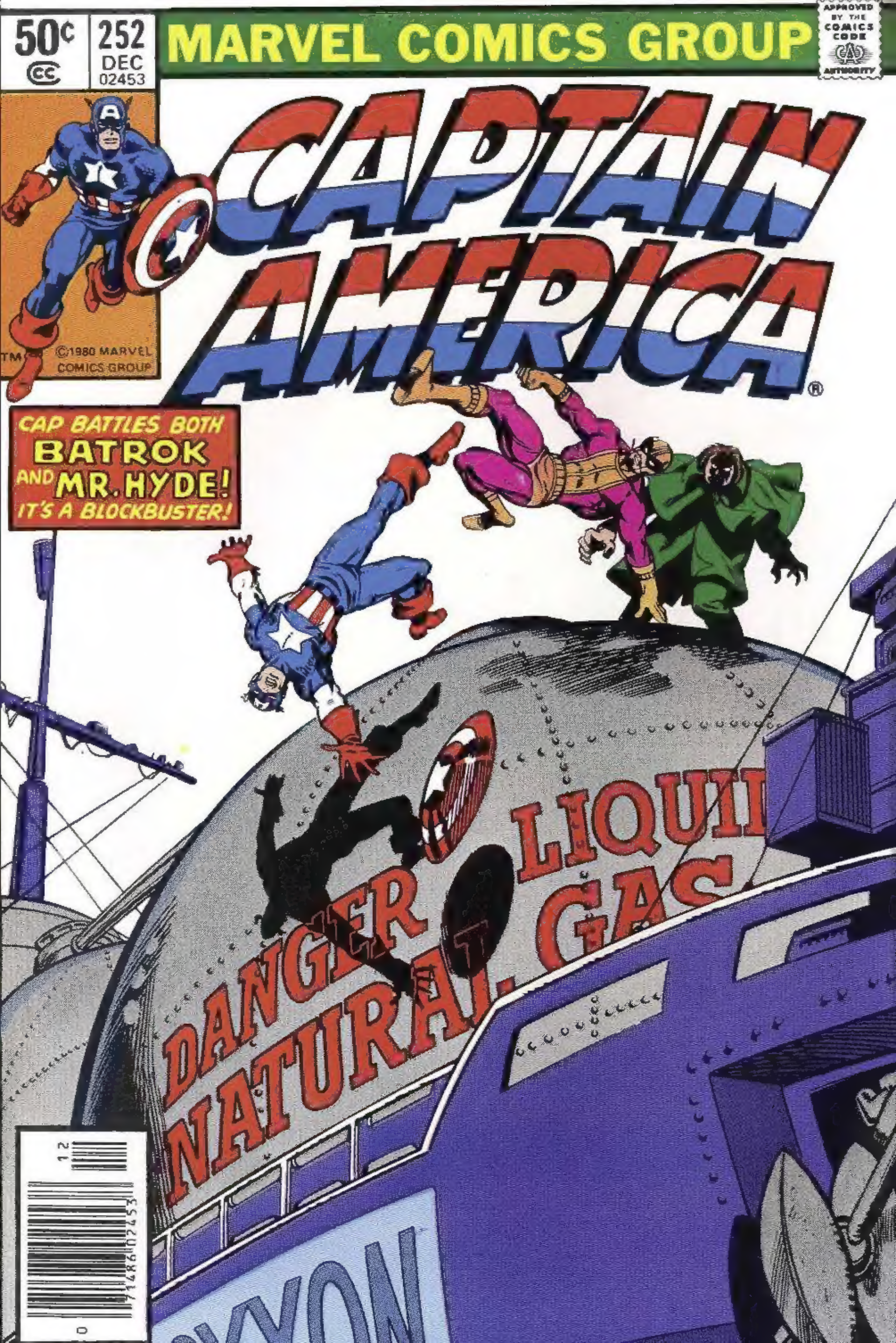

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CAP BATTLES BOTH BATROK AND MR. HYDE! IT'S A BLOCKBUSTER!
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...WAITING TO BRING FIERY DEATH AND DESTRUCTION TO ALL OF NEW YORK CITY!
COLD FIRE!
FOR NOW, THE JUMBO L-N-G SUPER-TANKER SITS IN THE MIDST OF A STRANGELY DESERTED NEW YORK HARBOR, A GIANT, FLOATING BOMB--
ROXXON
--DWARFING THE ATTENDANT BARGE THAT SAILS ALONG ITS STARBOARD SIDE... THE BARGE WHICH HOUSES BATROC'S FLOATING HEADQUARTERS.
HA-HAH-HA!
LESS THAN 24-HOURS AGO, BATROC USED THAT BARGE TO FREE HYDE FROM THE RYKER'S ISLAND PRISON COMPLEX.*
AND NOW, IT STANDS READY TO TRANSPORT THE DUO AND THEIR ILL-GOTTEN RANSOM TO SAFETY.
* LAST ISSUE. DON'T TELL US YOU MISSED IT! --JIM.
BUT BEFORE THE TWO TAKE TO FLIGHT...
THIS LITTLE TOY OF YOURS FASCINATES ME, CAPTAIN! I THINK I'LL BREAK IT BEFORE I DEPART.
...AND YOU AND THE SHIP ARE BLOWN SKY-HIGH!
YOU MEAN YOU'LL TRY, HYDE! BETTER MEN THAN YOU HAVE FAILED!
2
HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH, HYDE! NOTHING SEEMS TO AFFECT HIS SHIELD!
NONSENSE! IT CAN'T... RESIST... ME! A PIECE OF METAL THIS SIZE... CAN'T... UNGH... POSSIBLY--! I'VE... UNGH FOUGHT... UNGH... THOR! I...I...
...I CAN'T.
BLAST!
UNABLE TO EVEN BEND THE MIGHTY SHIELD, HYDE HURLS IT OVER THE TANKER'S PORT SIDE--
--INADVERTANTLY LODGING IT DEEP IN THE SIDE OF A SECOND BARGE, WHERE BATROC'S MEN ARE FAITHFULLY GATHERING UP THE BILLION-DOLLAR RANSOM FOR TRANSFER.
K-TUK
HUH?!
ROXXON
AND ON THE TANKER DECK...
I WAS A FOOL TO WASTE MY TIME ON THAT GAUDY TRINKET! COME, BATROC--WE STILL HAVE MUCH TO DO... ON THE BRIDGE!
AS YOU SAY, MON AMI...
THERE IS MUCH WE STILL MUST DO!
UNNOTICED BY HYDE, BATROC NONCHALANTLY GIVES A GENTLE KICK TO THE PORT-SIDE ANCHOR CHAIN RELEASE--
3

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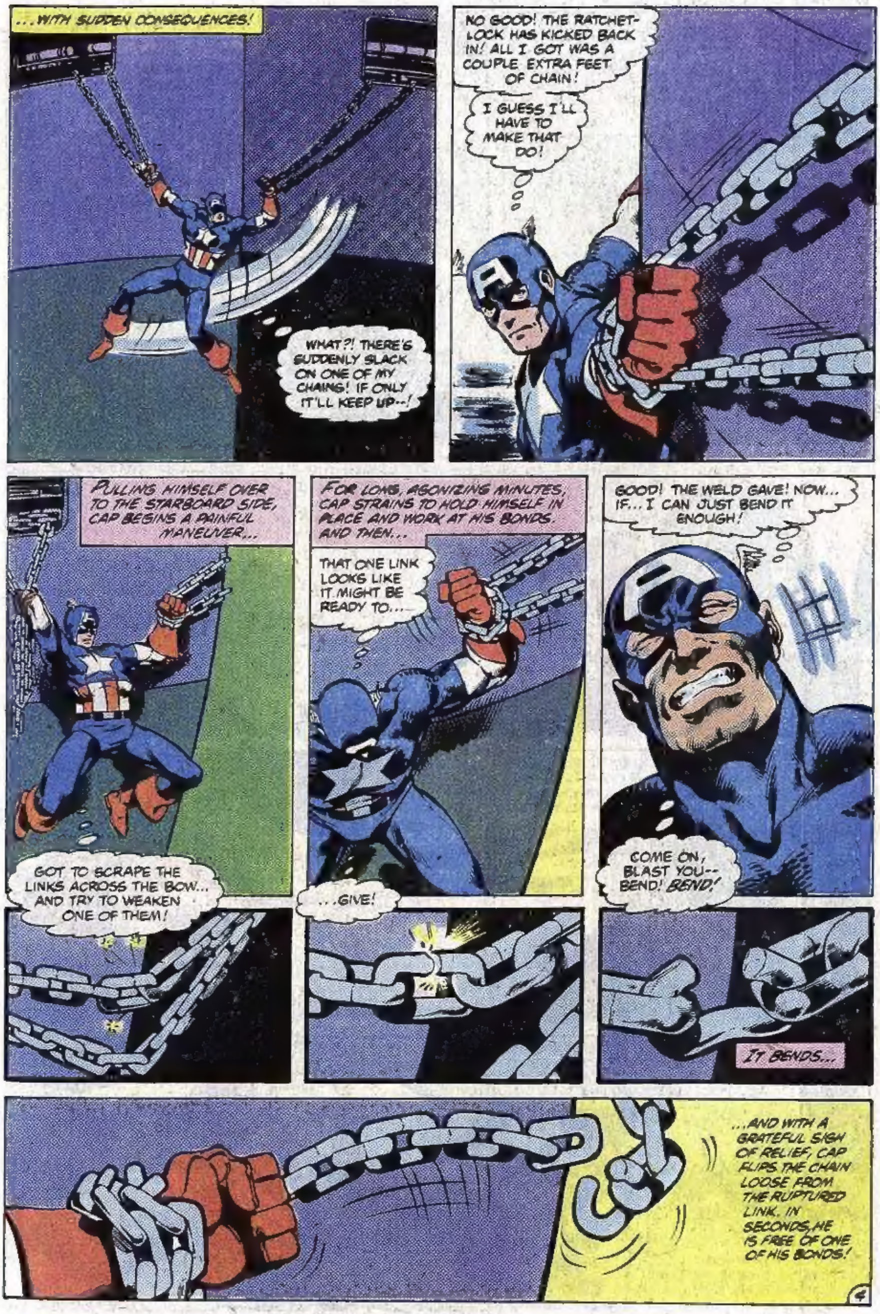
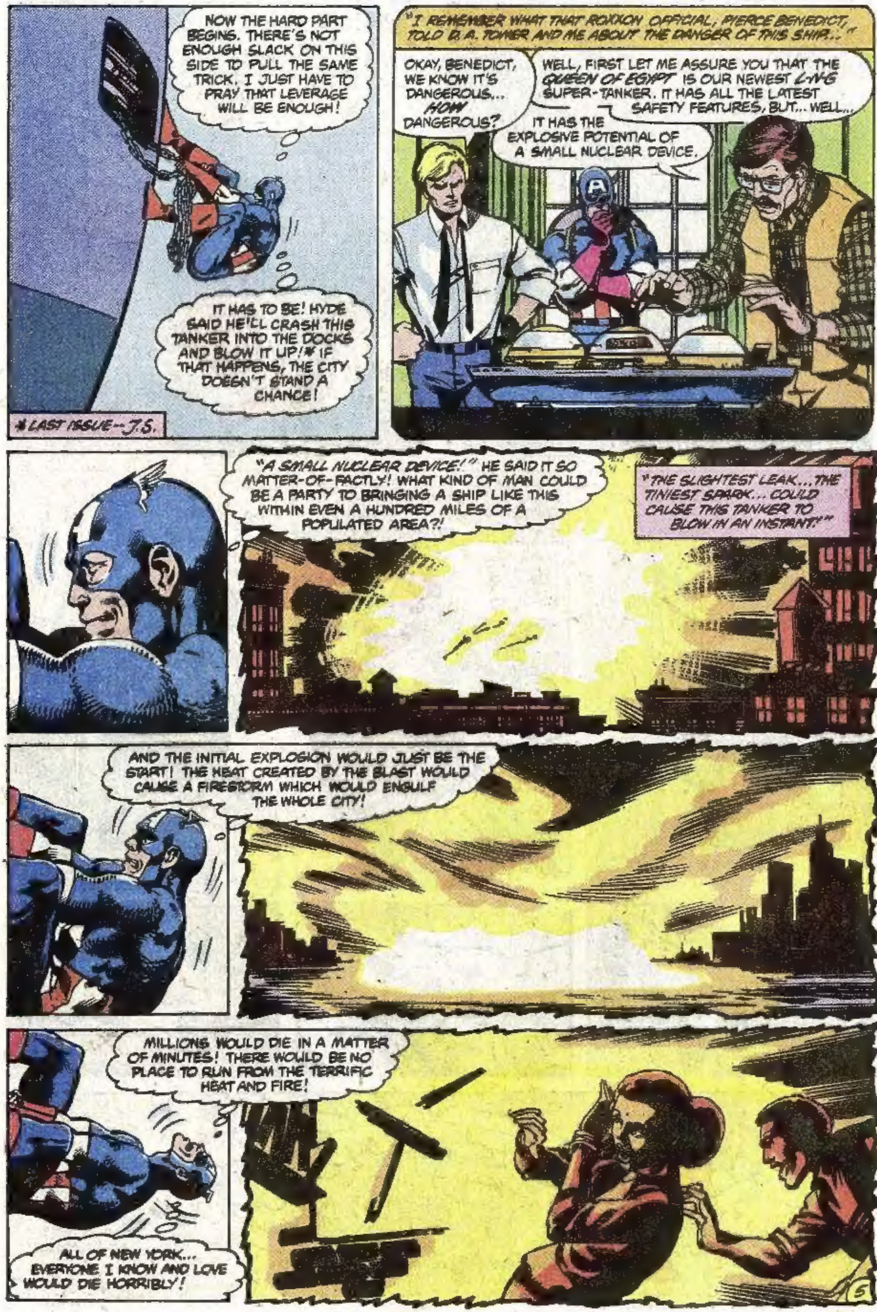
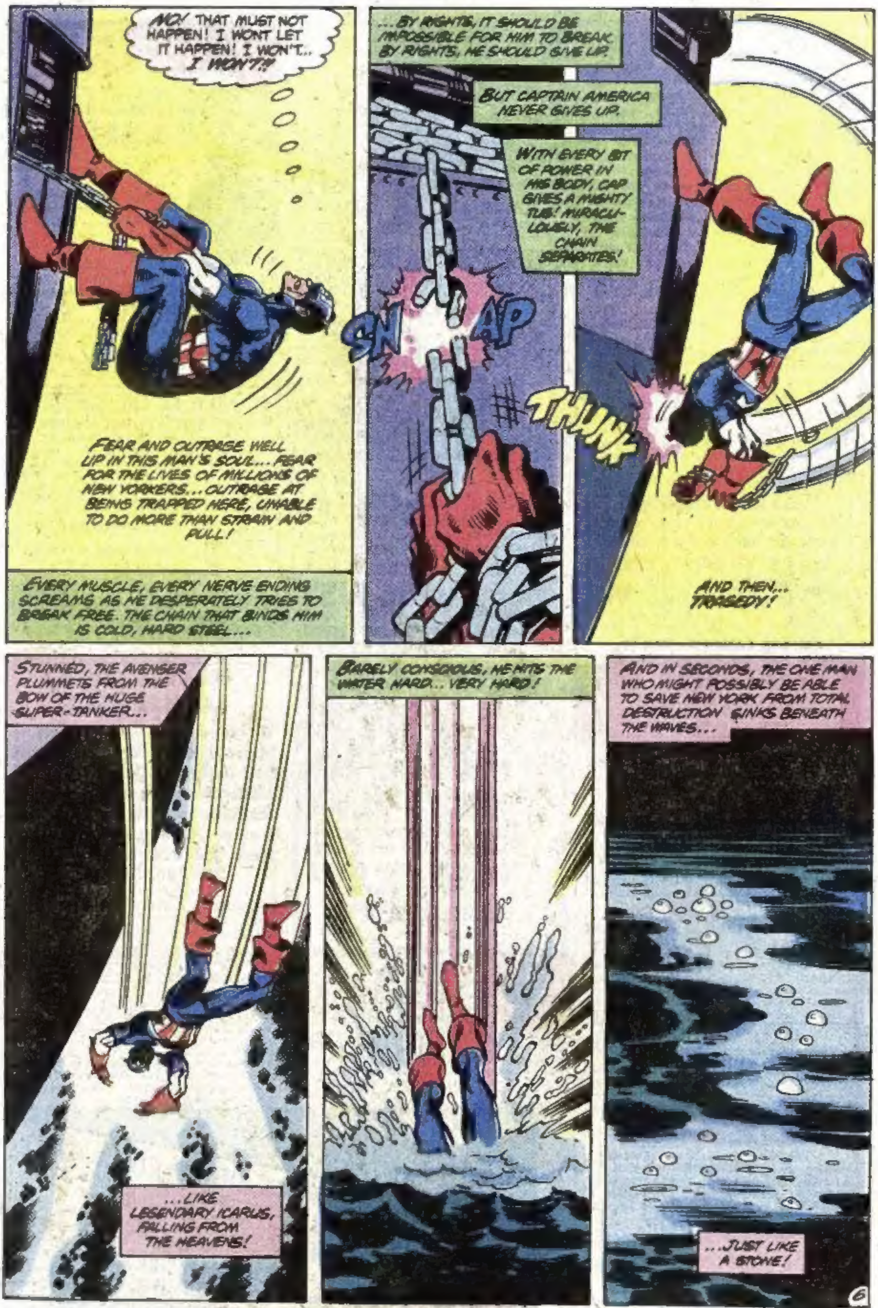


...WITH SUDDEN CONSEQUENCES!
WHAT?! THERE'S SUDDENLY SLACK ON ONE OF MY CHAINS! IF ONLY IT'LL KEEP UP--!
NO GOOD! THE RATCHET-LOCK HAS KICKED BACK IN! ALL I GOT WAS A COUPLE EXTRA FEET OF CHAIN!
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MAKE THAT DO!
PULLING HIMSELF OVER TO THE STARBOARD SIDE, CAP BEGINS A PAINFUL MANEUVER...
GOT TO SCRAPE THE LINKS ACROSS THE BOW... AND TRY TO WEAKEN ONE OF THEM!
FOR LONG, AGONIZING MINUTES, CAP STRAINS TO HOLD HIMSELF IN PLACE AND WORK AT HIS BONDS. AND THEN...
THAT ONE LINK LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT BE READY TO...
...GIVE!
GOOD! THE WELD GAVE! NOW... IF... I CAN JUST BEND IT ENOUGH!
COME ON, BLAST YOU-- BEND! BEND!
IT BENDS...
...AND WITH A GRATEFUL SIGH OF RELIEF, CAP FLIPS THE CHAIN LOOSE FROM THE RUPTURED LINK. IN SECONDS, HE IS FREE OF ONE OF HIS BONDS!
4



NOW THE HARD PART BEGINS. THERE'S NOT ENOUGH SLACK ON THIS SIDE TO PULL THE SAME TRICK. I JUST HAVE TO PRAY THAT LEVERAGE WILL BE ENOUGH!
IT HAS TO BE! HYDE SAID HE'LL CRASH THIS TANKER INTO THE DOCKS AND BLOW IT UP!* IF THAT HAPPENS, THE CITY DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE!
*LAST ISSUE--J.S.
"I REMEMBER WHAT THAT ROXXON OFFICIAL, PIERCE BENEDICT, TOLD D.A. TOWER AND ME ABOUT THE DANGER OF THIS SHIP..."
OKAY, BENEDICT, WE KNOW IT'S DANGEROUS... HOW DANGEROUS?
WELL, FIRST LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THE QUEEN OF EGYPT IS OUR NEWEST LNG SUPER-TANKER. IT HAS ALL THE LATEST SAFETY FEATURES, BUT... WELL...
IT HAS THE EXPLOSIVE POTENTIAL OF A SMALL NUCLEAR DEVICE.
"A SMALL NUCLEAR DEVICE!" HE SAID IT SO MATTER-OF-FACTLY! WHAT KIND OF MAN COULD BE A PARTY TO BRINGING A SHIP LIKE THIS WITHIN EVEN A HUNDRED MILES OF A POPULATED AREA?!
"THE SLIGHTEST LEAK... THE TINIEST SPARK... COULD CAUSE THIS TANKER TO BLOW IN AN INSTANT!"
AND THE INITIAL EXPLOSION WOULD JUST BE THE START! THE HEAT CREATED BY THE BLAST WOULD CAUSE A FIRESTORM WHICH WOULD ENGULF THE WHOLE CITY!
MILLIONS WOULD DIE IN A MATTER OF MINUTES! THERE WOULD BE NO PLACE TO RUN FROM THE TERRIFIC HEAT AND FIRE!
ALL OF NEW YORK... EVERYONE I KNOW AND LOVE WOULD DIE HORRIBLY!
5


NO! THAT MUST NOT HAPPEN! I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN! I WON'T... I WON'T!!
FEAR AND OUTRAGE WELL UP IN THIS MAN'S SOUL... FEAR FOR THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF NEW YORKERS... OUTRAGE AT BEING TRAPPED HERE, UNABLE TO DO MORE THAN STRAIN AND PULL!
EVERY MUSCLE, EVERY NERVE ENDING SCREAMS AS HE DESPERATELY TRIES TO BREAK FREE. THE CHAIN THAT BINDS HIM IS COLD, HARD STEEL...
...BY RIGHTS, IT SHOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BREAK. BY RIGHTS, HE SHOULD GIVE UP.
BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA NEVER GIVES UP.
WITH EVERY BIT OF POWER IN HIS BODY, CAP GIVES A MIGHTY TUG! MIRACULOUSLY, THE CHAIN SEPARATES!
SNAP
THUNK
AND THEN... TRAGEDY!
STUNNED, THE AVENGER PLUMMETS FROM THE BOW OF THE HUGE SUPER-TANKER...
...LIKE LEGENDARY ICARUS, FALLING FROM THE HEAVENS!
BARELY CONSCIOUS, HE HITS THE WATER HARD... VERY HARD!
AND IN SECONDS, THE ONE MAN WHO MIGHT POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO SAVE NEW YORK FROM TOTAL DESTRUCTION SINKS BENEATH THE WAVES...
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MEANWHILE, ON THE BRIDGE OF THE MAMMOTH TANKER...
YES, BATROC, AS AN... ASSOCIATE, YOU HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL IN THIS OPERATION. AND, OF COURSE, YOUR HOSTAGE CHOICE WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER MYSELF!
AH... YES, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE IT.
THE PIG! IT IS BAD ENOUGH THAT HYDE TRICKED ME INTO WORKING WITH HIM, # BUT HE DOES NOT EVEN CONSIDER ME A FULL PARTNER!
# LAST ISSUE--JIM
I STILL REMEMBER THE DEFEAT CAPTAIN AMERICA HANDED ME IN OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER. HAVING HIM AT MY MERCY NOW IS MOST SATISFYING!
YES. I REMEMBER...
"...AT THE TIME, I HAD BEEN MR. HYDE FOR TOO LONG WITHOUT RE-NEWING THE CHEMICALS WHICH GIVE ME MY POWER.
"WHEN I FIRST FOUGHT CAPTAIN AMERICA, MY STRENGTH WAS JUST A FRACTION OF MY TRUE MIGHT. HE EASILY BESTED ME. #
# CAP #152--JIM
"AFTER THAT IGNOMINOUS DEFEAT, HE JUST LEFT ME THERE, TIED UP WITH THAT FOOL, THE SCORPION... A PRISONER FOR THE POLICE TO FIND!
"BUT, AS I REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS, I REVERTED TO MY HUMAN FORM. ONCE AGAIN, I WAS DR. CALVIN ZABO! I EASILY SLIPPED FROM THE ROPES, LEAVING THE SCORPION FOR THE POLICE!
"I WAS ANGRY. I WANTED VENGEANCE ON THAT BLASTED AVENGER! BUT FOR THAT--
"--I NEEDED CERTAIN CHEMICALS TO DUPLICATE MY HYDE-FORMULA. FOOLISHLY, I BROKE INTO A NEARBY PHARMACY, AND I WAS CAUGHT IN THE ACT!
"LACKING THE FUNDS TO HIRE THE PROPER LAWYERS, I WAS TRIED AND CONVICTED. AND SO, CALVIN ZABO SPENT SIX MONTHS IN PRISON.
"SIX MONTHS DURING WHICH MY FORMER PARTNER, THE COBRA, BOUNCED IN AND OUT OF PRISONS AS A MEMBER OF THE SERPENT SQUAD!" #
# SEE CAP #163 & #180-182 --JIM
7

EVEN WHEN I REJOINED THE COBRA, HE BETRAYED ME! HE LEFT ME TO ROT IN RYKER'S ISLAND.* AND HE IS THE SOLE BEING WHO KNOWS I AM CALVIN ZABO!
YOU ARE STRANGELY QUIET, M'SIEUR.
I WAS THINKING OF A MAN I WAS ONCE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO TRUST, BATROC... A MAN WHO MUST SUFFER FOR HIS TREACHERY!
*SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #46-8
LOOK OUT THERE, BATROC... NEW YORK! JUST A FEW NIGHTS AGO, THE COBRA FOUGHT SPIDER-MAN OUT THERE!
I KNOW, COBRA... HE'S A CREATURE OF HABIT. HE'LL STILL BE HOLED UP IN THE CITY SOMEWHERE!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SET THESE CONTROLS... LET THIS TANKER CRASH INTO THE DOCKS... AND THE EXPLOSION WILL DO THE REST!
NO MORE NEW YORK... NO MORE COBRA!
YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS! THAT WAS JUST A THREAT... A BLUFF TO GET THE MONEY FROM ROXXON AND BEDEVIL THE CAPTAIN!
YOU SHOULD KNOW ME BETTER BY NOW, BATROC! I AM QUITE SERIOUS!
AND YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER, MONSIEUR, THAN TO TURN YOUR BACK ON BATROC!
SIGNAL YOUR MEN TO FINISH LOADING THE RANSOM AND CLEAR OUT OF THE HARBOR. WE'LL ESCAPE IN MY MINI-SUB!
NOW!
TAKING MONEY FROM A THIEVING OIL CARTEL LIKE ROXXON IS ONE THING, BUT MASS MURDER IS QUITE A DIFFERENT MATTER! BATROC SHALL HAVE NO PART OF IT!
KTAM
JUST LAST NIGHT, BATROC ATTACKED HIM WITH A SIMILAR KICK.. A KICK MEANT TO PARALYZE. IT FAILED.
TODAY, THE KICK IS DEADLIER... MEANT TO KILL!
8

IT ALSO FAILS!
SACRE BLEU!
KRESH
FOOL! DIDN'T YOU LEARN ANYTHING YESTERDAY?!
HYDE IS YOUR BETTER! HYDE WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR BETTER!
I STILL CANNOT BELIEVE THE SPEED HE POSSESSES. BUT SPEED AND STRENGTH ALONE DO NOT BRING VICTORY!
I DO NOT BELITTLE YOUR POWER, MONSIEUR...
KRAK!
BUT EVEN THE MIGHTIEST CAN BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD!
AND NOW, WE SHALL SEE WHO IS TRULY THE SUPERIOR FIGHTER!
...THE GLOVES ARE OFF, N'EST-CE PAS?
9

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BUT--EVEN AS BATROC AND HYDE SQUARE OFF--ON THE RANSOM BARGE BELOW!...
C'MON, BOB! YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!
NO! IT'S ABOUT TO GIVE!
WHOA-HO!
WATCH IT, WILL YA? GEEZ, YOU'VE GOT ALL THE GRACE OF A WOUNDED GAZELLE!
SAY WHAT YA WANT, TERRY BUT I'M THE GUY WITH THE SHIELD! REMEMBER THAT!
YEAH, WELL.. IT IS A NICE PIECE OF WORK! LOOK, IT'S NOT EVEN DENTED!
FROM THE STORIES THE BOSS TELLS, IT CAN'T BE DENTED!
HE CLAIMS IT'S MADE FROM SOME SORT OF SECRET SUPER-METAL OR SOMETHING!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT DO YOU? C'MON.. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GUARDING THE MINI-SUB!
HEY... DID YOU JUST HEAR SOMETHING?
THWOK
SORRY ABOUT THE REAR ATTACK, BOYS, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE! BESIDES, I DON'T THINK THAT LITTLE "MEETING OF THE MINDS" WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING MORE THAN A COUPLE OF BUMPS ON YOUR HEADS!
NOW I HAVE A LITTLE BUSINESS TO SETTLE WITH YOUR BOSS AND MR. HYDE!
SPRINGING UP THE NET-LADDER, CAP IS UP THE SIDE OF THE TANKER IN SECONDS...
WHAT THE DEVIL?! IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S SOME SORT OF FIGHT GOING ON UP THERE!
10

AND, SURE ENOUGH...
GREAT SCOTT! HYDE HAS BATROC ON THE ROPES! HE'S CRUSHING THE LIFE OUT OF HIM!
HYDE! NO!
STRANGE! FOR A MOMENT THERE, I THOUGHT I HEARD CAPTAIN AMERICA'S VOICE!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, ISN'T IT, BATROC? THE GOOD CAPTAIN IS AS HELPLESS AS YOU ARE!
S-S-STOP!
STOP? WHY CERTAINLY... AS SOON AS I'VE BROKEN YOU IN TWO! I THINK... AARRGHH!
MY ARM!
THE MAN SAID "STOP," HYDE--
--THAT SEEMS LIKE A WISE DECISION!
YOU... FREE?! BUT HOW?!
PERHAPS HE HAD SOME HELP, NON?
MERCI, CAPITAN... THAT IS ONE I OWE YOU!
BAH! IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU GOT FREE! I BEAT YOU UNCONCSIOUS AND CHAINED YOU BEFORE... I CAN DO IT AGAIN!
11

YEP, I'LL ADMIT THAT YOU CERTAINLY TOOK ME BY SURPRISE EARLIER, HYDE! BUT I'M ON MY GUARD NOW-- YOU WON'T TAKE ME THE SAME WAY TWICE!
FOOL! YOU CANNOT EVADE ME FOR LONG! YOU ARE JUST AN ORDINARY MAN BUT I AM HYDE! HYDE!
WELL, THEN HERE'S AN INTERESTING LESSON FOR YOU... "NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE ORDINARY MAN!"
THWOK
VERY TRUE, MON AMI! AND IS IT NOT ALSO A CUSTOM OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN TO BAND TOGETHER TO FIGHT THE COMMON EVIL?
BATROC! SO YOU STILL WANT A PART OF THIS FIGHT?
KRUK
BUT OF COURSE! YOU DID NOT THINK I WAS WILLING TO LET THIS MADMAN EXTERMINATE NEW YORK, DID YOU? WHY DID YOU THINK I ASKED FOR YOU AS OUR HOSTAGE?
WHUUFF!
THAT QUESTION HAD ENTERED MY MIND!
I NEVER TRUSTED HYDE FOR A MOMENT, AND I FEARED WHAT HE MIGHT TRY. BUT I KNEW THAT IF ANYONE COULD FIND A WAY TO STOP HIM, IT WAS YOU!
SO.. VOILA! I CONNIVED TO HAVE YOU BROUGHT HERE!
BATROC, THE NEXT TIME YOU NEED MY HELP AGAINST HYDE, GIVE ME A LITTLE WARNING FIRST!
12

RIGHT NOW, IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON US!
YOU INSIGNIFICANT IDIOTS! HYDE HAS THE STRENGTH OF A DOZEN MEN!
THEN WE SHALL HAVE TO HIT YOU SEVERAL TIMES, NON?
NO! YOU ARE NOTHING TO ME!
HE'S NOT BLUFFING! OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO KEEP HIM OFF-BALANCE--
--AND TRY TO WEAR HIM DOWN!
FOR TOO LONG HYDE HAS ALLIED HIMSELF WITH WEAKLINGS AND TRAITORS BUT NO MORE! HYDE NEEDS NO ONE BUT HIMSELF!
THANK
HEADS UP, BATROC! COMING YOUR WAY!
BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE DECKS OF THE SUPER-TANKER, CAP AND BATROC STRIKE OUT AT HYDE-- ALWAYS TRYING TO MANEUVER HIM AWAY FROM THE VOLATILE L-N-G TANKS.
LIKE A WELL-HONED MACHINE, THEY ATTACK AGAIN AND AGAIN--
--AND AGAIN!
BUT THEN . . .
HAH! I KNEW ONE OF YOU WOULD GET TOO CLOSE EVENTUALLY!
BATROC-- LOOK OUT!
SPAM
13

WITH A LOOK OF MERCILESS GLEE ON HIS FACE, HYDE MOVES IN, READY TO DELIVER A KILLING BLOW! BUT BEFORE HE CAN...
NO! KEEP AWAY FROM HIM!
COME ON, MISTER, STAY ON YOUR FEET! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER— I'LL HANDLE HYDE!
UNNGH!
YOU THINK YOU CAN STAND UP TO ME WITH THAT SHIELD, DO YOU? VERY WELL, HYDE SHALL USE A WEAPON, TOO!
THE WORDS SPEW FROM HYDE'S MOUTH IN A CHOKING, BRUTAL SNARL— HIS MIND NOW ALL-BUT-OVERWHELMED BY HIS CONSUMING HATRED!
ADDLED BY HIS RAGE, HE RIPS FREE THE NEAREST OBJECT.
--AND IS INUNDATED BY A HIGH-PRESSURE STREAM OF LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS!
GOOD LORD!
ALMOST INSTANTLY, AN ELABORATE EMERGENCY VALVE-SYSTEM SHUTS DOWN THE LEAK-- BUT NOT BEFORE THE SUB ZERO LIQUID FREEZES THE VERY WATER VAPOR AROUND HYDE!
H-HE'S STILL MOVING! HE'S STILL ALIVE UNDER ALL OF THAT!

ENCASED IN THE ICY SUBSTANCE, HYDE'S MONSTROUS FORM SLIPS AWAY FROM CAP'S GRASP, TUMBLING BACKWARD OVER THE SIDE OF THE TANKER...
HYDE!
SPLOOSH
JUST MINUTES AGO, HYDE THREATENED THE LIVES OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN NEW YORK CITY!
NOW, HE HIMSELF IS CAUGHT UP IN A DEATH-TRAP CREATED BY HIS OWN SAVAGE RAGE!
BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA DOES NOT HESITATE FOR A MOMENT. A LIFE IS IN DANGER... HE ACTS!
DESPERATELY, HE DIVES AFTER HYDE-- AGAIN AND AGAIN! BUT...
IT'S NO USE! THE HARBOR WATER IS TOO MURKY. I'VE LOST HIM!
I CAN'T FIND HIM, BATROC! WE'D BETTER RADIO THE HARBOR PATROL!
BATROC?
BUT THE WILY LEAPER IS NO LONGER ABOARD THE TANKER. HE IS ALREADY SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS AWAY!

JUST USE THIS HANDY COUPON! (PS ITS NOT A TRAP)

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WHY, THAT SLIPPERY--! HE'S GETTING AWAY..! AND WITH ROXXON'S BILLION-DOLLAR RANSOM, NO DOUBT! I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THIS--DESPITE HIS CODE OF HONOR, BATROC'S STILL A MERCENARY!
I CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS!
AND, ABOARD THE DECEPTIVELY INNOCENT-LOOKING BARGE
IT.. IT IS SO 'EAVY!
BUT OF COURSE, MONIQUE! GOLD IS HARDLY LIGHT!
MY LITTLE PLAN WORKED OUT WELL, DID IT NOT, MA CHERIE? NEW YORK IS STILL SAFE, MONSIEUR HYDE IS DEFEATED, AND WE HAVE ALL THIS LOVELY MONEY!
COME...LET US CELEBRATE!
BUT THEN...
BOOOM
NOM DU CHIEN!
MON DIEU!! DON'T TELL ME THAT THE TANKER BLEW UP AFTER ALL!
NON, WHAT AM I THINKING? THE EXPLOSION WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE!
RACING UP THE STAIRS FROM HIS PRIVATE QUARTERS, DEEP WITHIN THE BARGE, BATROC SOON CONFRONTS THE PROBLEM...
OH, NO!

THE TUG! SHE IS SINKING! BUT HOW CAN THIS BE?
EH? IT IS HYDE'S MINI-SUB! THE ONE HE AND I BOARDED THE TANKER IN!
OH, NO! NO, DO NOT TELL ME--!
AHOY, BATROC! SORRY I HAD TO TORPEDO YOUR PLANS-- BUT THERE'S STILL THE MATTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS YOU OWE ROXXON OIL!
OTHERWISE, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN TEMPTED TO LET YOU GO!
OH, AND I WOULDN'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY JUST NOW! YOU SEE, I'VE RADIOED THE COAST GUARD--
WOOOP
WOOP WOOOP
--AND YOU'RE SURROUNDED, MON AMI!
I DO NOT BELIEVE IT!
WOOP
YOU HAVE RUINED ME AGAIN, CAPTAIN! YOU... I... OH, WELL!
I GUESS THOSE ARE THE FORTUNES OF WAR! C'EST LA VIE!
17
NEXT ISSUE: SHOULD OLD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT

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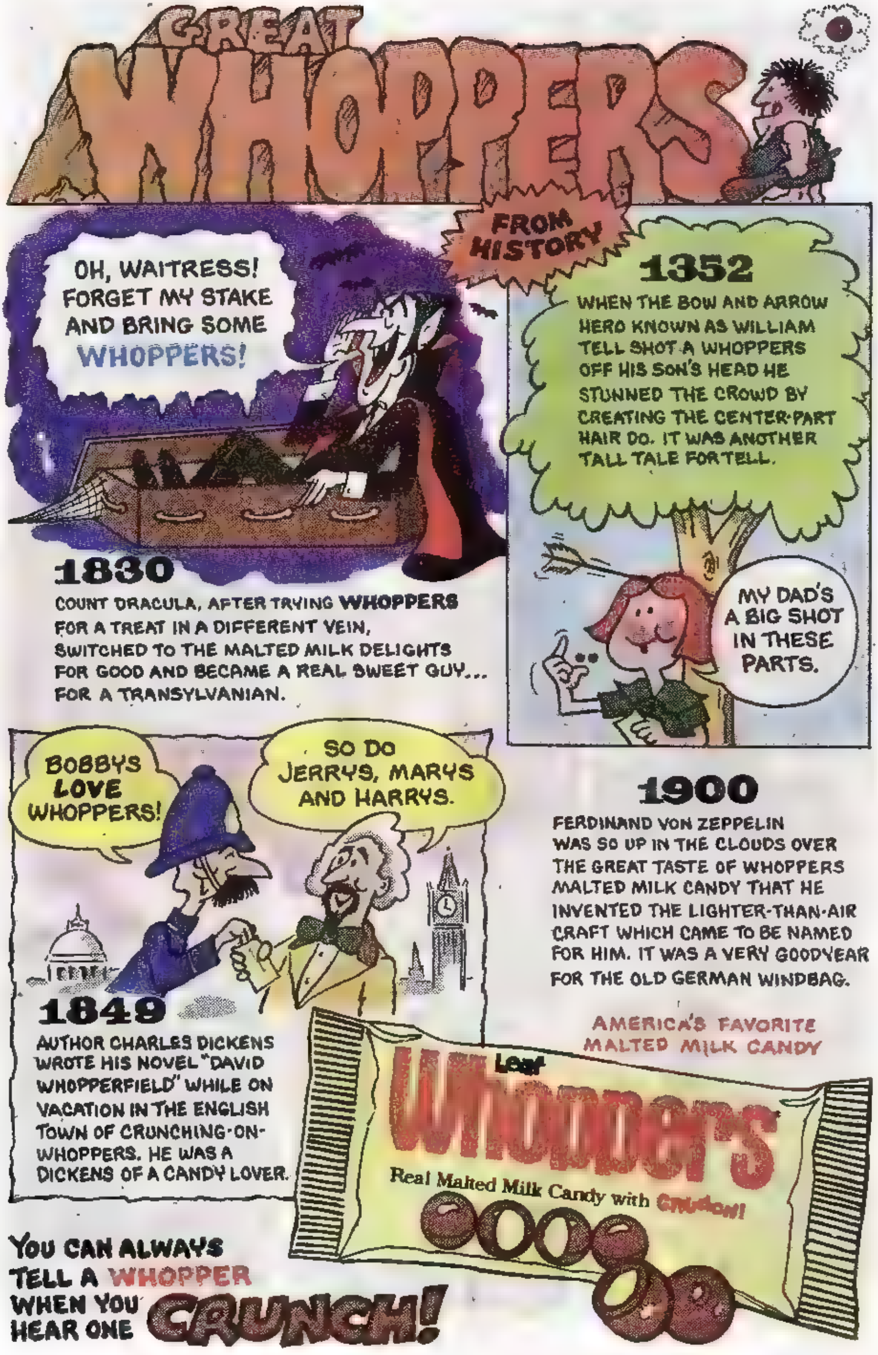

GREAT WHOPPERS
FROM HISTORY
OH, WAITRESS! FORGET MY STAKE AND BRING SOME WHOPPERS!
1830
COUNT DRACULA, AFTER TRYING WHOPPERS FOR A TREAT IN A DIFFERENT VEIN, SWITCHED TO THE MALTED MILK DELIGHTS FOR GOOD AND BECAME A REAL SWEET GUY... FOR A TRANSYLVANIAN.
1352
WHEN THE BOW AND ARROW HERO KNOWN AS WILLIAM TELL SHOT A WHOPPERS OFF HIS SON'S HEAD HE STUNNED THE CROWD BY CREATING THE CENTER-PART HAIR DO. IT WAS ANOTHER TALL TALE FOR TELL.
MY DAD'S A BIG SHOT IN THESE PARTS.
BOBBYS LOVE WHOPPERS!
SO DO JERRYS, MARYS AND HARRYS.
1849
AUTHOR CHARLES DICKENS WROTE HIS NOVEL "DAVID WHOPPERFIELD" WHILE ON VACATION IN THE ENGLISH TOWN OF CRUNCHING-ON-WHOPPERS. HE WAS A DICKENS OF A CANDY LOVER.
1900
FERDINAND VON ZEPPELIN WAS SO UP IN THE CLOUDS OVER THE GREAT TASTE OF WHOPPERS MALTED MILK CANDY THAT HE INVENTED THE LIGHTER-THAN-AIR CRAFT WHICH CAME TO BE NAMED FOR HIM. IT WAS A VERY GOODYEAR FOR THE OLD GERMAN WINDBAG.
AMERICA'S FAVORITE MALTED MILK CANDY
Leaf
Whoppers
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YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A WHOPPER WHEN YOU HEAR ONE CRUNCH!

BACK IN THE DAWNING DAYS OF WORLD WAR TWO...WHEN DR. ERSKINE'S SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM TRANSFORMED FRAIL STEVE ROGERS INTO THE LIVING DYNAMO KNOWN AS CAPTAIN AMERICA, A LIFE WAS CHANGED FOR ALL TIME! THE YOUTHFUL HERO WAS SUDDENLY THRUST INTO A FOUR-YEAR CAREER OF ALMOST CONSTANT ACTION--
--AND, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, STEVE ROGERS CEASED TO EXIST. HE BECAME LITTLE MORE THAN AN IDENTITY FOR CAPTAIN AMERICA TO FALL BACK ON.
FOR THE NEWLY-INDUCTED PRIVATE ROGERS, LIFE VARIED FROM THE FANTASTIC ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA... TO THE BORING ROUTINE OF BOOT CAMP.
THROWN INTO SUSPENDED ANIMATION BY A FREAK ACCIDENT AT WAR'S END, CAP WAS FOUND AND REVIVED DECADES LATER BY THE MIGHTY AVENGERS. AMERICA'S SUPER-SOLDIER LIVED AGAIN!
BUT, AS BEFORE, STEVE ROGERS WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A CIPHER WHEN NOT ON A MISSION WITH THE AVENGERS. CAP FOUND HIMSELF WITH LITTLE TO DO. CLEARLY, SOMETHING HAD TO CHANGE!
FOR A SHORT TIME, CAP LED A SECOND LIFE AS A ROOKIE COP FOR THE NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT. BUT WHILE THAT CAREER WAS SOMEWHAT SATISFYING FOR STEVE ROGERS, IT DIDN'T ALLOW HIM THE FLEXIBILITY NEEDED TO CONTINUE AS CAPTAIN AMERICA.
MACY'S
TODAY, HOWEVER, CAP HAS FINALLY FOUND A CAREER THAT ALLOWS ENOUGH TIME FOR A DOUBLE LIFE, AND ENOUGH INCOME TO PAY THE RENT.
MEET STEVE ROGERS... FREE-LANCE COMMERCIAL ARTIST!
PUSH
DRAWING ON A NATIVE TALENT FOR ART, STEVE HAS AT LAST RETURNED TO LIFE... A LIFE OF FLEXIBLE HOURS... CREATIVE FULFILLMENT...
...AND DEADLINES!

THE APARTMENT OF STEVE ROGERS ESQ.
LOCATED AT 569 LEAMAN PLACE, IN THE VERY HEART OF HISTORIC BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, STEVE'S APARTMENT-&-STUDIO OCCUPIES THE TOP FLOOR OF A HANDSOME OLD FOUR-STORY BUILDING.
A
B
C
D
E
F
FINALLY, FOR ALL YOU BUDDING ARCHITECTS, HERE'S THE FLOORPLAN TO STEVE'S HUMBLE ABODE...
D DINING AREA
E KITCHEN
C DOORWAY TO BEDROOM
B BATHROOM
F DRAWING BOARD/WORKING AREA
HALLWAY/STAIRS
H
A MAIN LIVING AREA
CLOSETS G

STEVE ROGERS' FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
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GOOD 'N'

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# IRON MAN* VS. THE BANK ROBBERS!

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CAPTAIN AMERICA'S PARTNERS AGAINST CRIME
COLONEL NICHOLAS FURY & AGENT TIMOTHY ALOYSIUS CADWALLADER DUGAN (A.K.A. DUM-DUM)... OF THE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION.
THE DIRECTOR OF THE FREE WORLD'S GREATEST SPY-AGENCY AND HIS TOP AGENT HAVE OFTEN FOUGHT ALONGSIDE CAP IN HIS BATTLES AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF FREEDOM!
SAM WILSON THE FALCON... AND MS. LEILA TAYLOR.
CAP'S FORMER PARTNER-- AND ONE-TIME FELLOW AVENGER --IS NOW OPERATING ON HIS OWN. (ACTUALLY, WE'RE NOT SURE JUST WHAT SAM AND HIS LADY ARE UP TO RIGHT NOW, BUT WE DOUBT THEY'LL STAY OUT OF THE PICTURE FOR LONG.!)
JAMES BUCHANAN BARNES -- A.K.A. BUCKY
S.H.I.E.L.D AGENT 13-- SHARON CARTER
THE WAR AGAINST INJUSTICE IS NOT AN EASY ONE... LIKE ANY WAR, IT HAS ITS CASUALTIES. CAP'S FIRST PARTNER, BUCKY, AND THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE, SHARON CARTER, WERE TWO OF THOSE CASUALTIES. AND THOUGH THEY HAVE PASSED FROM THIS MORTAL EXISTENCE, THEY SHALL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN!
AND FINALLY, THERE ARE CAP'S TEAMMATES... THE AVENGERS!
DEAR ROGER,
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO DRAW ALL OF THE AVENGERS -- EVERY SINGLE MEMBER AND ALL OF THE VARIOUS HANGERS-ON -- IN THIS LITTLE SPACE, YOU CAN THINK AGAIN!
JOHN BYRNE
CHICKEN!
THANKS JOHN! - JOE RUBINSTEIN

# LETTERS TO THE LIVING LEGEND

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
BOB BUDIANSKY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Marvel Readers,

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Carol Bellamy
President, New York City Council

**Thanks for the timely reminder, Carol. We at the Marvel Bullpen are always ready to help out whenever we can.**

Dear Roger, John, and Joe:

Captain America has been revitalized for two issues now — and, aside from the fact that it's nice to see the same creative team for two issues in a row, you folks have been doing some really nice stuff. I sent my rave letter last month, so this time it's critique. It's concerned with making the book *better*, now that it's good enough to pay close attention to.

The characters have been well fleshed out, the action's been enjoyable, and each scene has been carefully presented to us. A bit too carefully, perhaps. While I'm not one to deny nifty fight scenes and time spent on the cast, the books *are* only seventeen pages long, and the book as a whole must be considered as well as the scenes that make it up. And the past two issues of CAPTAIN AMERICA have just been too short. You need to economize on some scenes in order to get enough story material in the book. At the beginning of this issue, for example, two-and-a-half pages were spent on the fact that Machinesmith builds nice robots, and they blow up, too. Nicely done, it's true, but the first six pages could have been accomplished in four, leaving more room for the meat of the issue, which deserved more than eleven pages. The final five-page battle with Dragon Man amounted to little more than a chase, and a short one at that. The introduction of Bernie was well done, but it was really only a teaser. Either she could've been better defined, or Josh and Fireman Farrel could've got some coverage.

My point is, with all this even motion from scene to scene and even tone through the scenes, the issue lacked focus. It didn't seem to begin or end, nor were there any major portions of it. Unless I'm wrong, the three major things I as reader should have remembered after I finished the book were: 1) Machinesmith is more than simply a malevolent super-villain, 2) Captain America is poised, cool, alert — he acts like the Sentinel of Liberty, and 3) Bernie Rosenthal is a character to watch. None of those came through (unless you looked for them on a second reading) because none of them were focused on. They were given the same coverage as everything else.

Anyway, my suggestion is: Try to put a little more story in each issue, or at least focus on the major points of the issue. Again, I'm making this criticism *after* noting that the book is one of Marvel's best — I just think that the best could be better.

One final thing... since you're going to be playing up the fact that Cap grew up in the Thirties, let me make a suggestion. I have *always* wanted to see Cap wax reminiscent about the movies and the stars of his time. Gene Kelly, Katherine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy, Jimmy Stewart... I don't know when their various careers began, but Cap didn't go on ice until 1945... he must remember some of them. How about it?

Kurt Busiek
Lexington, MA 02173

**All good points, Kurt... and all well said.**

**How about if we fine-tune the focus a little and put a little more story in? As you know by now, we presently have 22 pages to play with. And while we may occasionally give you some special features, as with this issue, those extra pages are going to go a long way towards giving you more for your money. In fact, John and I may possibly have more story elements in next issue than we would normally have put into *two* of the old 17-page issues.**

**I like the idea of Cap's/Steve's reminiscences of the movie idols of his youth. I've already tried to get a little into the man's musical tastes... why *not* check out his movies faves as well? We'll try to keep that in mind! —Roger Stern**

Dear Roger and John,

Just a note of thanks for putting the pizzazz back into CAPTAIN AMERICA!

Roger, your research into the character, as well as into the period of time in which he originated, is an admirable idea. It should help to round out this hero's life.

John, your art is a breath of fresh air on any book... and doubly so on CAP. He's always been my favorite character, and he'd fallen on some hard times artistically in the recent past. I can tell you enjoy doing the book. It shows, and it looks great. Keep it up.

I'm also really pleased with the choice of Joe Rubinstein as inker for John's pencils. Their styles mesh beautifully, and the end result is a total package that can't be beaten.

Jeff Gelb
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

**NEXT ISSUE: "Should Old Acquaintance Be Forgot?" Not if said acquaintance is with the kith and kin of the Family Falsworth! CAP #253 takes Steve Rogers on a junket to Great Britain and involves the Living Legend in a series of mysterious murders. And along the way, there are Broadway shows, cryptic cables, creatures of the night, and a close encounter with British Customs Agents... as Cap discovers whatever happened to his wartime allies, the Invaders!**

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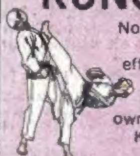

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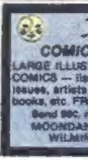

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